



Security Council

Distr.: General
4 October 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 1 October 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 28 September 2004, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex

**Letter dated 28 September 2004 from the Secretary-General of
the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the
Secretary-General**

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations for August 2004 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the present letter and its enclosure available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

Enclosure

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON SFOR OPERATIONS

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 August 2004.
2. As of 31 August 2004, SFOR total strength was 8,131, including 389 troops from non NATO nations. In addition, there were 6 SFOR personnel posted in Croatia.
3. On 27 August 2004, Brigadier General Gerhard Stelz (GE A) transferred command of Multi-national Task Force (South-East) to Brigadier General Jean Michel Chereau (FR A). On 1 September 2004, command of Multi-national Task Force (North-West) was transferred from Brigadier General Stuart Beare (CA A) to Brigadier Mark Dodson (UK A).
4. There was no change to the status of Partner/non-NATO nation contributions.

Security

5. During the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable, with no serious incidents to report.
6. There were no significant acts of violence directed against SFOR personnel during the reporting period.
7. SFOR remained engaged with weapons collection, destruction and framework operations.
8. The results of weapons turned in or collected during the reporting period and within the framework of Operation HARVEST are as follows: small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers): 712; ammunition less than 20 mm: 149,065 rounds; ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm: 340 rounds; ammunition more than 76 mm: 16 rounds; hand grenades: 1,482; mines: 210; explosives: 142,8 Kg; other items (mortars and mortar rounds, rifle grenades, handmade ordnance, rocket, etc): 4484.5.
9. In order to support the reduction of unserviceable and obsolete Entity Armed Forces ammunition and reduce ammunition quantities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, SFOR has continued to conduct Operation ARMADILLO II. As of 31 August 2004, the total number of VRS ammunition destroyed was 2674 tons.
10. On 31 July 2004, SFOR apprehended Mr. Mile Pejcic, a wartime bodyguard to Radovan Karadzic, in Brčko, on suspicion that he had been engaged in anti-Dayton activities. Mr. Pejcic was transferred to a secure location for further questioning. His home was searched for evidence of illegal activities threatening a safe and secure environment in Bosnia. Following this, a SFOR DOCEX team inspection took place in the Republika Srpska MUP Station in Bijeljina. Following the 1992-95 war, Mr. Pejcic had served as a police officer in Bijeljina. The High Representative Lord Ashdown blacklisted Mr. Pejcic in June 2004 along with 58 other Bosnian Serbs for his involvement in providing support to Mr. Karadzic.
11. On 31 August 2004, SFOR detained Mr. Milovan "Cicko" Bjelica and Mr. Veljko Borovina in Sokolac. MM. Bjelica and Borovina were detained for anti-Dayton activities and are suspected of providing support to Mr. Radovan Karadzic. The operation was conducted without incident. This is the second time this year that Mr. Bjelica has been detained by SFOR. On 14 May 2004, the former Pale mayor

was detained in Sokolac and then released on 14 June 2004. He, along with Mr. Momcilo Mandic, was also a target of another search operation in March 2003 in which Lord Ashdown had frozen his bank accounts, again due to his support to Mr. Karadzic. Lord Ashdown also placed Mr. Bjelica on the EU blacklist in July 2003.

12. On 26 August 2004, units of the VRS and VF working with SFOR completed a joint mass casualty exercise near Nevesinje, with excellent co-operation between AFBiH and SFOR units at each level.

Compliance by the parties

13. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces have carried out normal training activities, in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.
14. There were a total of 211 training and operation activities (125 VRS and 86 VF) and 212 movements (125 VRS and 87 VF) conducted during the reporting period.
15. There were a total of 44 inspections of weapons and ammunition storage sites (20 VRS and 24 VF) during August 2004.
16. SFOR's Joint Military Affair has established a new Advice and Assistance Implementation Initiative. This is to assist the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the implementation of the new structures and transformation to become more efficient and to conform to NATO standards. The first phase will occur between 25 September and 23 November 2004 and will include visits to the upper level of VF Joint Command, VRS General Staff and the VF and VRS Brigades, Air Force, Logistics and Training Commands.

October Municipal Elections

17. On 3 August 2004, the Bosnian Election Commission announced the official start of the election campaign for the 02 October municipal elections. A total of 68 political parties will be participating in the elections, 146 independent candidates, 18 coalitions and six lists of independent candidates.

Conclusion

18. August 2004 was a quiet month in what has proven to be a very quiet summer. The SFOR deterrent presence posture continues to ensure a safe and secure environment which bodes well for the transfer of the Bosnian peace support operation to the EU later this year.